

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1373

To amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit human chimeras.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 11, 2005

Mr. BROWNBACK introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit human chimeras.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Human Chimera Pro-
5 hibition Act of 2005”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) advances in research and technology have
9 made possible the creation of chimeras, which are
10 beings with diverse human and non-human tissue;

1 (2) serious ethical objections are raised to some
 2 types of chimeras because they blur the lines be-
 3 tween human and animal, male and female, parent
 4 and child, and one individual and another individual;

5 (3) respect for human dignity and the integrity
 6 of the human species may be threatened by chi-
 7 meras;

8 (4) the uniqueness of individual human beings
 9 is manifested in a particular way through their brain
 10 and their reproductive organs/cells; and

11 (5) with an increase in emerging zoonotic infec-
 12 tion threatening the public health, both domestically
 13 and abroad, chimeras present a particularly optimal
 14 means of genetic transfers that could increase the
 15 efficiency or virulence of diseases threatening both
 16 humans and animals.

17 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON HUMAN CHIMERAS.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Part I of title 18, United States
 19 Code, is amended by inserting after chapter 15 the fol-
 20 lowing:

21 **“CHAPTER 16—HUMAN CHIMERAS**

“Sec.

“301. Definitions.

“302. Prohibition on human chimeras.

22 **“§ 301. Definitions**

23 “In this chapter the following definitions apply:

1 “(1) HUMAN CHIMERA.—The term ‘human chi-
2 mera’ means—

3 “(A) a human embryo into which a non-
4 human cell or cells (or the component parts
5 thereof) have been introduced to render its
6 membership in the species *Homo sapiens* uncer-
7 tain through germline or other changes;

8 “(B) a hybrid human/animal embryo pro-
9 duced by fertilizing a human egg with non-
10 human sperm;

11 “(C) a hybrid human/animal embryo pro-
12 duced by fertilizing a non-human egg with
13 human sperm;

14 “(D) an embryo produced by introducing a
15 non-human nucleus into a human egg;

16 “(E) an embryo produced by introducing a
17 human nucleus into a non-human egg;

18 “(F) an embryo containing haploid sets of
19 chromosomes from both a human and a non-
20 human life form;

21 “(G) a non-human life form engineered
22 such that human gametes develop within the
23 body of a non-human life form; or

24 “(H) a non-human life form engineered
25 such that it contains a human brain or a brain

1 derived wholly or predominantly from human
2 neural tissues.

3 “(2) HUMAN EMBRYO.—The term ‘human em-
4 bryo’ means an organism of the species *Homo sapi-*
5 *ens* during the earliest stages of development, from
6 1 cell up to 8 weeks.

7 **“§ 302. Prohibition on human chimeras**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful for any per-
9 son to knowingly, in or otherwise affecting interstate com-
10 merce—

11 “(1) create or attempt to create a human chi-
12 mera;

13 “(2) transfer or attempt to transfer a human
14 embryo into a non-human womb;

15 “(3) transfer or attempt to transfer a non-
16 human embryo into a human womb; or

17 “(4) transport or receive for any purpose a
18 human chimera.

19 “(b) PENALTIES.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Whoever violates subsection
21 (a) shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not
22 more than 10 years, or both.

23 “(2) CIVIL PENALTY.—Whoever violates sub-
24 section (a) and derives pecuniary gain from such vio-
25 lation shall be subject to a civil fine of the greater

1 of \$1,000,000 and an amount equal to the amount
 2 of the gross gain multiplied by 2.”.

3 **SEC. 4. TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.**

4 The table of chapters for part I of title 18, United
 5 States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relat-
 6 ing to chapter 15 the following:

“16. Human chimeras 301”.

